

REMARKS

This communication is responsive to the final Office Action dated May 20, 2010. In this Reply, claims 1 and 3-7 have been cancelled, and new claims 29-34 have been added and are currently pending. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the specification as originally filed, for example, at paragraphs [0019] - [0021] and [0026] - [0034] and Figures 2-4. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 1 and 3-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as allegedly failing to provide a written description of the invention. Without conceding to the Examiner's rejection, and solely in the interest of expediting prosecution, the rejected claims have been cancelled, and the new claims are believed to satisfy the written description requirement of § 112. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,984,902 to Moorehead, et al. ("Moorehead"). Without conceding to the Examiner's rejection, and solely in the interest of expediting prosecution, the rejected claims have been cancelled, and the new claims are believed not to be anticipated by Moorehead. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 3, and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious

over Moorehead. Claims 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Moorehead in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,984,902 to Fischer, et al. (“Fischer”). Without conceding to the Examiner’s rejection, and solely in the interest of expediting prosecution, the rejected claims have been cancelled, and the new claims are believed not to be obvious over Moorehead alone or in combination with Fischer. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

CONCLUSION

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order and such action is respectfully requested.

In the event that there are any questions relating to this Amendment or to the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would contact the undersigned attorney by telephone at (202) 373-6000 so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-4047 (7061982001).

Respectfully submitted,

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